Subsidy on Drip Irrigation

3087. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has represented for increasing the amount of subsidy on the drip irrigation for oilpalm;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the measures taken to increase the export of oilpalm?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The Government of Andhra Pradesh had represented for increasing subsidy on installation of drip irrigation system for Oil Palm growers from Rs. 10,000 per hectare to Rs. 15,000 per hectare and relaxation of restriction of area from 1 hectare to 6 hectares per Oil Palm grower's family.

(c) The Government of India raised the subsidy to Oil Palm growers from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 per hectare and relaxed the restriction of area to 6 hectares for installation of drip irrigation system in March, 1996. Further, the subsidy borne by Government of India with State Government was revised from 80:20 to 90:10 sharing basis.

(d) No measures have so far been taken to increase export of Oil Palm.

Reduction in the running time of Trains

3088. SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government would take steps to reduce the running time of Shatabdi Express train leaving from Bangalore to Hubli and back;

(b) whether the Government would take steps for stopping the train at other than the scheduled stoppages to reduce the running time and would extend the train upto Bengaum; and

(c) whether it is proposed to reduce the train fair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, as Bangalore-Hubli Shatabadi Express is very poorly patronised, it is being replaced by an Intercity Express with additional stoppage in October - 1996 Time Table.

Conversion into Broad Gauge line

3089. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased ot state :

(a) whether the work relating to the gauge conversion of rail line between Kottur and Hospet has not got clearance from the concerned agency of the Railway Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance earmarked for the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : No, Sir. The gauge conversion of rail line between Kotturu and Hospet is a part of Gauge Conversion of Hospet-Goa section, cleared by this Ministry. The work on this section, i.e. Kotturu-Hospet, has since been completed and commissioned.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Bridge at Hathras Junction

3090. SHRI KRISHAN LAL DILER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted during the recent years for the construction of bridge at the Hathras Junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct an over bridge and platform on the metre gauge line at the Hathras Junction; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Construction of a Road over bridge at Km. 1296/29-31 on Ghaziabad-Kanpur section in lieu of level crossing No. 95-A on Pilibhit-Bharatpur Road has been included in the Works Programme of 96-97 at a cost of rs. 827.11 lakhs (Rly's share Rs. 373.76 lakhs and State PWD's share Rs. 453.35 lakhs).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Multi-State Co-Operatives

3091. SHRI NANDKUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to encourage setting up of multi state co-operatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Cooperative Societies with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State come under the purview of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 (A Central Act). The proposals for setting up of such Multi-State Cooperative Societies may be considered for registration in view of the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 and rules framed thereunder. Hence, the question of encouragement or otherwise of the setting up of Multi-State Cooperative Societies, does not arise.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion in Madhya Pradesh

3092. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places in Madhya Pradesh where metre gauge railway lines are existing;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to convert these metre gauge railway lines into broad gauge;

(c) if so, the names of the railway lines out of these for which the action is being taken for gauge conversion;

(d) whether there is any proposal to covert the metre gauge rail lines from Gwalior to Shyopur-Kala and Bhind to Gwalior into broad gauge; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Metre gauge lines are existing at the following places in Madhya Pradesh :

1. Nimach
2. Ratlam
3. Ujjain
4. Indore
5. Mhow and
6. Khandwa

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Gauge conversion of Nimach-Ratlam sections is an approved work, which is currently in progress and is likely to be completed in the Ninth Plan.

Surveys for conversion of Ratlam-Indore-Ujjain-Mhow and Mhow-Khandwa are in progress. Futher consideration of the proposals will be possible, once the results of the surveys become available.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan narrow gauge section to broad gauge and its extension to Kota is in progress. Further consideration of the proposal will be possible, once the results of the survey become available.

Gwalior to Nonera is already an existing broad gauge line. Conversion of the line from Nonera to Bhind from narrow gauge to broad gauge, which forms a part of the approved work of Guna-Etawah new broad gauge line, will be taken up after completion of the construction of Guna-Gwalior new line.

[English]

Jabalpur Railway Station

3039. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pitiable condition of Jabalpur Railway Station viz. corruption in reservation fake reservation, no sitting arrangement in the reservation premises, defunct PCO boxes at the railway platform and dirty railway tracks, etc; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Jabalpur station has been provided with Computerised reservation facility which precludes the scope of fraud like selling of fake or counterfeit tickets. Some unscrupulous elements with connivance of railway staff however, indulge in malpractices like blocking of berths cornering of accommodation etc. Two such cases have been reported recently in which railway administration has initiated action. Preventive, surprise and decoy checks by Commercial and Vigilance organisations are conducted on a regular and sustained basis in order to tackle such problems.

No arrangement is presently available in the reservation complex at Jabalpur station for seating of passengers seeking reservations. Railways are exploring the feasibility of providing sitting arrangement if required.

Two manned telephone booths with STD/ISD facilities are provided on main platforms of Jabalpur station. These booths are maintained by P and T Department and action is taken to ensure that they are kept in working order.

For ensuring cleanliness of railway track adjacent to platforms, washable apron has been provided on Platform No. 1 and provision for washable apron for Platform No. 3 is being processed by the railway.

[Translation]

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

3094. Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have incurred any expenditure on the treatment and other items relating to the Bhopal gas victims till now; and